





*Henry A. Sherwin.*

20.00

any more

1 Pay  
\$165-



# Washington as an Artist

BY JAMES M. SMITH



NEW YORK  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
1897



# Washington as an Angler

WITH

EXTRACTS FROM HIS DIARIES

1787-89

BY

GEORGE H. MOORE

MEMBER OF THE AMMAUSKEAG FISHING CLUB

"All that are lovers of virtue . . .  
be quiet and go a-Angling."

IZAACK WALTON

NEW YORK

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR

MDCCCLXXXVII

COPYRIGHT, 1887, BY  
GEORGE H. MOORE

TROW'S  
PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING COMPANY,  
NEW YORK.

## TO GROVER CLEVELAND

*President of the United States*

It is known to me that there have been skilful fishermen, more than one, among the Chief Magistrates of the Nation. Your immediate predecessor has left an unsurpassed record among them, and it is with no ordinary pleasure that those of us who profess the faith and follow the precepts of THE COMPLETE ANGLER have been assured that you are inclined to indulge in similar recreation betimes. No good fisherman was ever a bad man, and history will bear out the assertion that the best Presidents have been the best fishermen. No one of the many biographers of the first President of the United States has done justice to the character of Washington in this important feature; and the present publication of extracts from his diaries is intended to be a

*timely tribute to his fame as a Man among Men,  
a Fisherman among Fishermen, in which it will  
be no disparagement to you to share. In the first  
century of this Nation's life, he was the first  
and you have been called to be the last Presi-  
dent. I trust that the beginning of the new era  
will find as good a fisherman as you are in office,  
and that the line may continue to stretch out,  
like that of the blood-boltered Banquo, till the  
crack of doom.*

GEORGE H. MOORE

LENOX LIBRARY :

*July, 1887.*

## WASHINGTON AS AN ANGLER.

MR. SPARKS, in his life of Washington, has mentioned the report of tradition, that he displayed in his boyhood a passion for active sports, and a fondness for athletic amusements, which he did not relinquish in mature life. Other writers have repeated this general statement, but no one has pointed out his claim to be recognized as "a Brother of the Angle." Among his manuscripts hitherto unpublished he has left a very interesting record of his recreations at a period of his life when he was engaged in a service hardly less important to his country than that of his military career. Without him there would have been no United States to need a Constitution and without him no Constitution would have been formed or established. He was

the Saviour of his country in peace, as well as in war. As President of the Federal Convention at Philadelphia in the summer of 1787, he was punctually in his place during the arduous deliberations of that renowned assembly. After a very close application to business for more than two months, the Convention appointed a committee of detail to whom they referred the results of their previous action, with orders to prepare and report them in the form of a constitution. The Convention then adjourned on Thursday, the twenty sixth day of July, until Monday the sixth day of August, 1787.

It was duly reported in the newspapers of the day that on "Monday last [July 30th, 1787,] his Excellency General Washington set out for *Moore Hall*, in order to visit his old quarters at the Valley Forge."

*Moore Hall* was the ancient stone mansion of William Moore, who has been characterized as "the most conspicuous and heroic figure in the County of Chester" in

his day and generation. The building is still standing, overlooking the Schuylkill and, three miles distant, the Valley Forge. Judge Moore, who was born in 1699, died in 1783, leaving a widow who survived him several years. An advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of February 2d, 1791, offered

“MOORE HALL. *To be rented.* Mansion House, Farm and Mill in the township of Charlestown, in the County of Chester, situate on the river Schuylkill, distant twenty three miles from Philadelphia. Two Hundred acres. Mill on a never failing stream called Pickering. Feb. 1. 1791.”

This ancient homestead, known in 1787 as “the Widow Moore’s,” was the objective point of General Washington’s outing, when he set out to visit his old quarters at the Valley Forge. What a flood of recollections must have overwhelmed him as he fulfilled this purpose, and reviewed those scenes of past trials, sorrow and dis-

treasure, in the great light of patriotic hope after the hours of triumph! The contrast must have been more impressive even than that presented in the suggestions of his visit to Lexington, neglected by historians, when, in his first vacation as President of the United States, he "viewed the spot on which the first blood was drawn in the late glorious war" where

"Once the embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world."

But historic places and reminiscences were by no means the only thing in view upon this excursion—perhaps not the main thing. What it all was cannot be better told than in General Washington's own brief sententious records of each day.

*"Monday 30th July.*

"In company with Mr Govern<sup>r</sup> Morris went into the neighborhood of the Valley Forge to a Widow Moore's a fishing at whose house we lodged.

*Washington as an Angler.* 9

*"Tuesday 31st [July].*

"Before breakfast I rode to the Valley Forge and over the whole Cantonment & Works of the American Army in the winter of 1777-8 and on my return to the Widow Moore's found Mr. & Mrs. Rob. Morris. Spent the day there fishing, &c & lodged at the same place.

*"Wednesday August 1.*

"Returned abt 11 o'clock with the above Company to Philadelphia.

*"Friday 3<sup>d</sup> Aug. 1787.*

"Went up to Trenton on a Fishing Party with Mr. & Mrs. Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris & Mr Gov<sup>r</sup> Morris. Dined and lodged at Col<sup>o</sup> Sam Ogden's.—In the evening fished.

*"Saturday 4th [Aug. 1787]*

"In the morning and between breakfast and dinner fished. Dined

at General Dickenson's and returned in the evening to Col<sup>o</sup> Ogden's.

“*Sunday* 5th [Aug. 1787.]

“Dined at Col<sup>o</sup> Ogden's and about 4 o'clock set out for Philadelphia—halted an hour at Bristol and reached the city before 9 o'clock.”

These were very notable fishing parties. The companions of Washington were old, tried and constant friends, always true and never found wanting.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, of New York, one of the noblest of her sons, a great man and a good citizen, who could truly say that the welfare of his country was his single object during a conspicuous public career. He never sought, refused, nor resigned an office, although there was no department of government in which he was not called to act; and it was the unvarying principle of his life, that the interest of his

country must be preferred to every other interest. Such a man was Gouverneur Morris, the inspired penman of the Federal Constitution.

ROBERT MORRIS, of Pennsylvania, the great Financier of the Revolution, whose services to his country have never been justly appreciated, for his biography has never been justly written.

MRS. ROBERT MORRIS, whose charming face, in the most beautiful and well preserved portrait of a woman ever painted by Gilbert Stuart, smiles on the vain effort of the writer to tell what is the real secret of its winning grace and lasting impression on every visitor to the Gallery of the Lenox Library which is now its permanent home, and of which it is one of the principal ornaments.

The WIDOW MOORE, the loyalty and devotion of whose husband is the best testimony to her merits. He has left the record in his will—"happy woman, a pattern of her sex, and worthy the relationship she

bears to the Right Honorable and noble family from whence she sprang."

GENERAL PHILEMON DICKINSON, a distinguished officer of the New Jersey line, a brother of that famous writer and patriot, who was the author of the "Farmer's Letters," both "Petitions to the King" and the "Declaration of the Continental Congress on taking up Arms in 1775."

COLONEL SAMUEL OGDEN, the brother-in-law of Gouverneur Morris, and like Dickinson, a worthy representative of that grand army of the Revolution, whose practical lessons of disinterested patriotism are so full of wisdom and rich in instruction to every true-hearted American.

Truly this was a goodly company for any place or pursuit, with much of profitable entertainment therein for all concerned. Indeed, it may well be doubted whether anything recorded in the annals of angling anywhere can challenge it for distinction, all things considered. Certainly no American fishing party hitherto described can

vie with it, for a moment, in historical interest and importance.

---

Another fishing excursion is mentioned in a later diary of Washington. When he made his great Northern and Eastern Tour, already alluded to, in 1789, Portsmouth in New Hampshire was the extreme point of his journey. While he was there, he was taken out to view the harbour, and to try his skill and luck in salt water. On Monday, November 2d, they went down to the outer harbour beyond the fort and the Light House, where, as he says himself,

“Having lines, we proceeded to the Fishing Banks a little without the Harbour, and fished for Cod; but it not being a proper time of tide, we only caught two, with w’ch, about 1 o’clock, we returned to Town.”

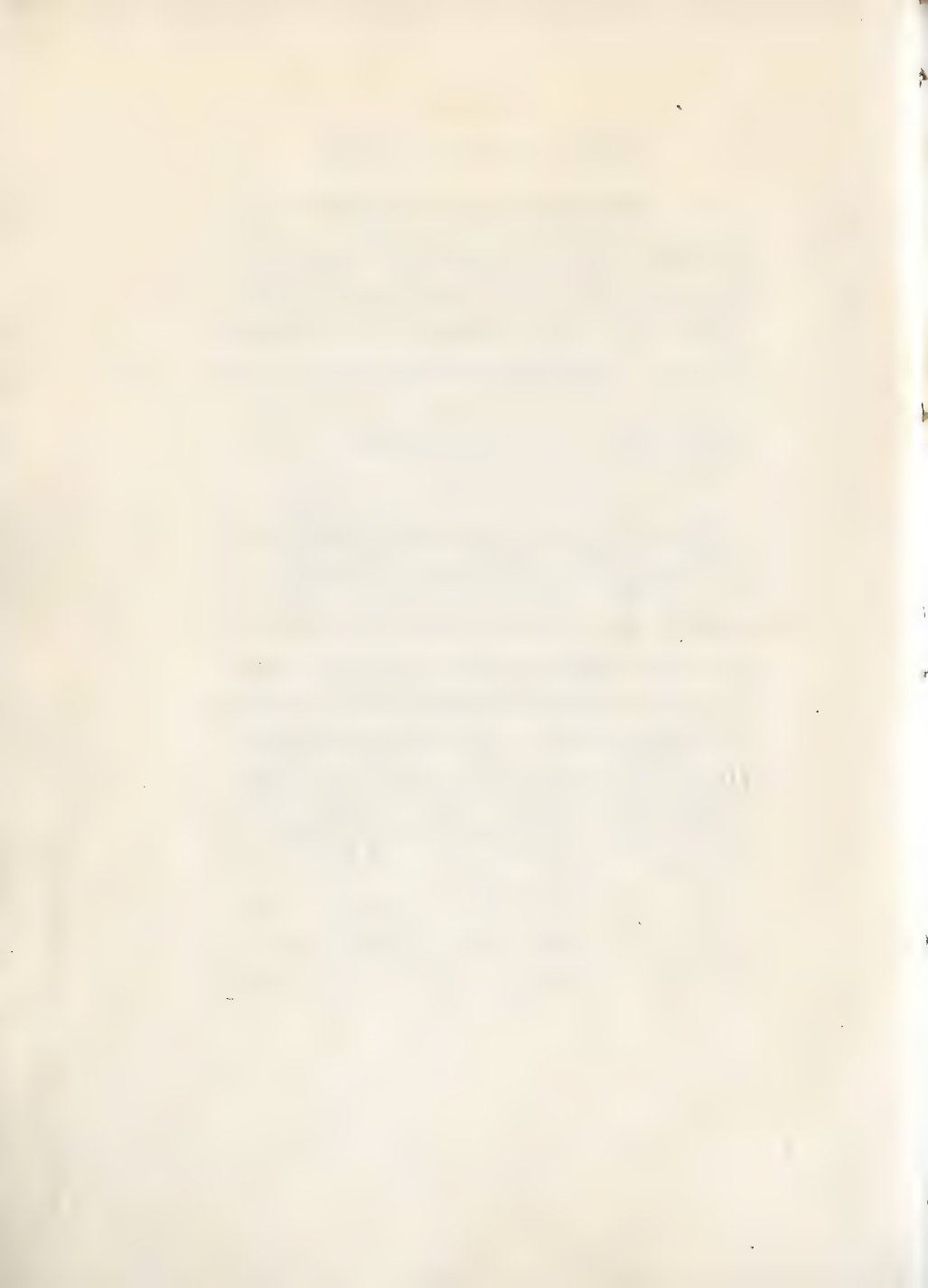
His visit to Lexington, to which I have alluded, took place on his return towards New York. He had intended to go to that historic locality while he was yet in Boston, but on the day appointed, Monday, October 26th, his record is

“ The day being Rainy and Stormy, myself much disordered by a cold and inflammation in the left eye, I was prevented from visiting Lexington, where the first blood in the dispute with G. Brit’n was drawn.”

Returning from Portsmouth, he left that place on Wednesday the 4th of November, passing through Exeter, Haverhill and Andover, where on the 5th, he was received and escorted by the Hon. Samuel Phillips, Jr., President of the Senate of the Commonwealth, and other gentlemen of the town. He made a short visit to Mr. Phillips, who attended him as far as Lexington where they “dined and viewed the spot

on which the first blood was spilt in the dispute with G. B. on the 19th of April, 1775." His further route was continued through Watertown, and by what was known as "the middle road" to Hartford, Connecticut. He arrived in New York on Friday the 13th November.

Future research may or may not reveal particulars of these fishings in the Schuylkill and the Delaware or their tributary streams, the character and weight of the catch, the methods of the sport in those days, and all the incidents which crowd such fleeting hours of charming recreation. I am content to have been the first to claim for GEORGE WASHINGTON his rightful place as an Angler—a genuine disciple of Izaak Walton.









"On Oct. 17, 1777, Burgoyne's army rendered to the Americans at Saratoga. The articles of the convention was: that the British should march out of the camp, with all the arms of war, to a fixed place, where they were to deposit their arms. It is said that Gen. Gage [the American commander] paid so nice, delicate an attention to the British military honor that he kept his army close within the lines, and did not suffer an American soldier to be a witness to the degrading spectacle of their arms."—*Army Register*, xx, 173. 1. Horace Walpole, on Lord Cornwallis's capitulation in 1781, wrote: "The newspapers had declared he would never pile up his arms like Burgoyne; that is, he would rather die sword in hand."—*Walpole's Journal of the Reign of George III.*, ii, 475."

"George III. told Lord Eldon that at a late hour he asked Wilkes after his friend Sergeant Glynn. 'My friend, Sir,' says Wilkes to the King; 'I have no friend of mine.' 'Why,' said the King, 'you was your friend and your counsel in all your trials.' 'Sir,' rejoined Wilkes, 'he was my *counsel*—one must have counsel, but he was not my *friend*; he loves sedition and licentiousness, which I never delighted in; in fact, Sir, he was a Wilkite, which I never was.' The King said with impudence and the humor of the man made him forget at the moment his impudence."

The last volume has a "chart of Dr. Johnson's contemporaries," which was drawn after the plan of the chart in Ruskin's "Admiral Florentina." To the student of the eighteenth century it will prove an extremely useful chart, and to any reader will be interesting. At a glance one is able to extract from it such facts as, that Johnson was born in the same decade as Thomson, Franklin, Fielding, and Chatham; that is, between 1700 and 1710; that Defoe, Swift, Steele, Addison, Pope, Richardson, Voltaire, and Chesterfield were all children of the seventeenth century; that at Sir Joshua Reynolds's birth Johnson was a boy of 14; that Goldsmith's birth he was 19, at Burke's at Gibbon's 28, at Boswell's 31, at Milton's 34, at Goethe's 40, at Burns's 42, and at Scott's 62, and that at Johnson's birth Savage was 11 years old, Hogarth 10, Chesterfield 15, Voltaire 15, Pope 21, Addison 37, Steele 38, Swift 42, and Defoe 43.

[GLADSTONE, HARCOURT, AND SMITH.]  
*From the London Truth.*

The British House of Commons now adorn;  
The first holds place unrivaled in debate,  
The next deals blows that heavy are  
straight:

THE NORTH HAS THE WORST OF  
From the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph, Aug. 3.

The North is experiencing something like the feeling of the South toward

Paul

Dr. Fretwell;

Leux Thauy

Key City

Ch. K. Kumpster

98 e Refaunt.

24. City

*The Times* \_\_\_\_\_ *Aug. 7. 87.*

When the disaster of Gen. Burgoyne

the origin of the name some information supplied.

Boswell informs us that Johnson and Savage "were sometimes in such extreme

was, says Boswell, (Post, April 13, 1778), 'willing to take men as they are, imperfect and with a mixture of good and bad qualities.' How in

we had been a good customer, and had he live  
would have paid every farthing. (Prior's Gold  
smith, H., 232.)

such entries in his own bills as:

the exact facts in this case:

"Having lines, we proceeded to the Fishing Banks a little without the Harbor and fished for

His visit to Lexington, to which I have alluded, took place on his return toward New York. He

"The day being Rainy and Stormy, myself much disordered by a cold and inflammation of the

Returning from Portsmouth, he left that place on Wednesday, the 4th of November, 1881.

Mr. Phillips, who attended him as far as Lexington, where they "dined and viewed the spot on which the first blood was spilt in the dispute with G. B. on the 19th of April, 1775." His far-

place as an angler—a genuine disciple of Izaak Walton.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON. July 31 1887

I am much pleased to learn that the only element of greatness heretofore unnoticed in the

I am a little curious to know whether the absence of details as to the result of his fishing is owing to bad luck or to a lack of interest.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

